

## SW Region's "Eye on Training" is on "INTERNS"

### SW Region holds Intern "Greening Day"



**M**s. Melinda Darby, Assistant G1 for Civilian Personnel and Policy, visited the SW Region at Fort Riley in February 2005. During her visit, she stressed the importance of sharing the Army mission and history with Career Interns. Ms. Darby encouraged the regional staff to plan activities designed to orient interns to the Army, and referred to this process as "**Greening**". On June 8<sup>th</sup>, SW Region held the first "**Greening Day**" for seventeen SW Region Interns and staff.

**Greening Day** began with a discussion of Army mission and values, led by Regional Director, Ms. Mary Rodriguez. The participants viewed the Fort Riley Command Video, which touched on installation history as well as current military goals. The group then attended the Change of Command ceremony for 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment at historic Cavalry Parade Field. The ceremony, steeped in tradition, included a Cavalry charge conducted by the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard.

Next on the agenda was a tour of the Cavalry Museum and General George Custer's Quarters. Both tours gave participants a feel for Fort Riley's rich history and a look at Army life in by-gone days. A knowledgeable docent then provided historical anecdotes as participants enjoyed a driving tour of Fort Riley's beautiful Main Post.

The next stop was the Dining Facility, where CSM Gilbert Canuela, the 24th ID Command Sergeant Major, joined the group for lunch. The interns enjoyed discussing Army life with CSM Canuela, who eagerly answered questions about the Army as a career, support of soldiers during wartime, and the importance of the civilian workforce to Fort Riley's success.

Following lunch, the interns traveled to the Close Combat Tactical Trainer, where they participated in a simulated tank battle. Each pair of interns worked together as a crew to accomplish the battlefield mission. The impressive equipment, which exhibited highly realistic simulations, showcased the Army's commitment to training soldiers for battle.

A stop at the Soldier and Family Support Center provided interns with a look at the personal side of Army life. This premier organization provides many useful programs for soldiers and their families. Some of the programs provided, include Financial Readiness, Army Family Team Building, Family Advocacy, and the New Parent Support Program. The visit left SW Region Interns with the understanding that the Army is committed to supporting soldiers and their families.

The last stop on the tour was designed to illustrate life in today's Army, from a soldiers' perspective. The 977<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company graciously allowed the SW Region interns to tour their barracks, and view the living space of two soldiers in the company. During a question and answer period following the tour, the group was given the opportunity to ask questions about Army life, deployments, and physical fitness requirements of military personnel.

Second year intern, Callie McDiffett enjoyed the historic part of the Greening Day activities, saying, "The history behind Fort Riley is unbelievable. I loved seeing the Cavalry charge, then envisioning the general overlooking his troops on the Artillery Parade Field from the balcony of his home so many years ago. The day invigorated my patriotism and gave me a true sense of the traditions of Fort Riley."

Regional Director, Mary Rodriguez summarized the intent of the day, and her goals for each intern, stating, "To be effective HR professionals it is essential that we understand the Army that we work for and are a part of. **Greening Day** gave our CP-10 interns an outstanding opportunity to learn more about the Army in general and the rich heritage and proud tradition of Ft. Riley in particular. Even more importantly the experience allowed them to reflect on and appreciate their role as civilian soldiers."

With the successful completion of the SW Region's first **Greening Day**, a new tradition was born! Plans are now being made to implement a Greening Day for future interns, as part of their initial orientation into the SW Region and the Army.



SW Regional Director, Mary Rodriguez, poses for a picture with the interns and staff who participated in the **Greening Day** on 8 June. The group is standing on the front porch of the historic quarters occupied by General George Custer, during his military tour at Fort Riley.

## Customer Feedback

Your feedback and comments are valuable to us.



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